

borne out this year. On August 23 and September 18, 1904, and on May 14, 1905, this bird was present in large flocks at the lake west of Lincoln. The same observation applies to the Bed-backed Sandpiper and the Buff-breasted Sandpiper, the former having been noted very commonly on May 22, August 23, September 4 and 11, 1904, and on May 14, 1905, while the latter was present in great numbers on September 11 and 18, 1904, being the most evident sandpiper on the lake.

*Falco sparverius phalæna*. WESTERN SPARROW HAWK.—I have recently examined two male Sparrow Hawks, one taken at Florence and one at Lincoln, in the collections of Messrs. Wallace and Eiche respectively, and both are as clearly *phalæna* as is our specimen from Sioux county. Very likely it is not rare as a migrant over the entire State.

*Tyrannus verticalis*. ARKANSAS KINGBIRD.—This flycatcher, while abundant enough in the western part of the State, has, until the last two years, always been considered a rarity in eastern Nebraska where it occurs as a migrant. In fact, single records of its occurrence at Omaha, Lincoln, and West Point practically constituted the list of eastern records until last year when four additional records were established. During the past month of May, 1905, it has been reported frequently, and in some localities as common, one Omaha observer having seen twelve in one day. Personally I have seen it at Dunbar on May 6, at Lincoln on May 14, and at South Bend on May 17. There would seem to be considerable foundation for a belief that the species is extending its line of migration eastward.

*Ammodramus henslowii occidentalis*. WESTERN HENSLOW'S SPARROW.—A third record for this bird is one taken at Dunbar, April 30, 1904, by Mr. E. H. Jones of that place.

*Vireo philadelphicus*. PHILADELPHIA VIREO.—A pair of this vireo was observed under the binoculars for nearly an hour by the writer and others at Dunbar on May 16, 1905.—MYRON H. SWENK, *Dept. Entomology and Ornithology, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb.*

**Do Migrants Fast?**—There has been an impression among some who have examined the stomachs of birds or who have speculated upon the various problems in connection with migration that many migrants make an effort to rid themselves of all food contents before beginning the flight. From the evidence of the examined stomachs alone, this opinion is the natural one, since they have been found in nearly every case to be perfectly empty, only rarely containing an amount of food equal to one per cent of the stomach capacity. Of more than one hundred stomachs of migrants examined by the writer, not more than five had a trace of food in them.

Recently opportunity was afforded to examine the entire viscera of many birds (mostly warblers) killed by striking the Washington Monument on the night of May 6-7, 1905. For the preservation of this material I am indebted to Prof. W. W. Cooke. With one exception the

*stomachs* were empty, but in a majority of the specimens, the *intestine*, including even the *duodenum*, was as well filled with food material as in a migrant warbler shot in the evening after feeding all day. This proves, at least for the species examined, that the birds do not make any special preparation for the migration flight in regard to the amount of food they carry. This is the rational supposition and is supported by the observed fact that birds are seen busily feeding on evenings which as shown by subsequent events are just prior to migration. The empty condition of the *stomachs* of birds killed in migration is easily explained by the rapidity with which the digestive process is usually accomplished in birds.—W. L. MCATEE, *Washington, D. C.*

**Hybridism between the Shoveller and Blue-winged Teal.**—I have recently examined a very interesting hybrid, and the first I have heard of between these two species. Mr. James P. Catlin of Ottawa, Ill., in whose possession the duck is, writes me as follows: "It is an entirely new cross to me and was shot by the keeper of the Greenwing Gun Club on their preserve along the Illinois River at Bureau Junction, Ill., on April 3, 1905. He had a few decoys set out in a small opening in the flooded timber and this bird came in with a Blue-winged Teal hen. He killed the pair."

The specimen is a male about half way in size between the two species. The head shows the greenish reflections of the Shoveller, the spotted breast of the Teal, the chestnut abdomen, the speculum and under tail coverts of the Shoveller, and the upper wing-coverts of the Teal; the crescentic patch across the anterior portion of the head is normal for the Teal but not as pure white in color; the legs and feet have the bright yellow of the Teal. The bill is .65 in. longer than in a normal Teal, but is a miniature of that of the Shoveller in other ways.

Every specimen of hybrid duck which has come to my notice has been a male. The cross between the Mallard and Pintail is not uncommon; the last record was a specimen sent to me in the flesh by Mr. Charles M. Carter, shot at Bigelow, Mo., Feb. 25, 1905. Mr. Manly Hardy of Brewer, Me., has in his collection two examples of crosses between the Mallard and Dusky Duck, one favoring the plumage of the former, the other of the latter, one example each between the Gadwall and Widgeon, and the Blue-winged and Cinnamon Teal.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Chicago, Ill.*